

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN KILLS THE PROJECTED SCHEME.

Designation of Clerk Grymes Submitted—Motion to Reduce the Price of Gas Lost—Building Permits—School Building—Matters Concerned In.

The first business done after roll call at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen last night was the reading of the following communication from Mayor J. Taylor Ellyson:

"It is my painful duty to inform you that on the 4th of March I was compelled to suspend from the further exercise of the duties of his office Mr. E. Buford Grymes, clerk to the City Treasurer. This I did upon the complaint of John K. Childrey, Esq., City Treasurer, that Mr. Grymes had received certain money in the payment of gas bills which he had failed to properly credit on the books of the Treasurer, and for which he had rendered no account to that officer. It was further alleged that Mr. Grymes had entered the bills paid on the gas bill book in the Auditor's office. Mr. Grymes not having been able to satisfactorily explain these charges, I was constrained to order his suspension and in compliance with section 3 of chapter 3 of the city ordinances, I now report the matter to you for your information and action."

"The following are the names of the parties who hold receipts signed by Mr. Grymes, together with the dates and the amounts of payment: February 24th, Thalheimer Brothers, \$23.85; February 25th, Watkins Hardware Company, \$21; J. L. Levy, \$13.25; E. Schaefer, \$6.15.

Mr. Grymes has presented his resignation, which I herewith enclose.

"The resignation, which is dated March 4th, is as follows:

To the Hon. J. T. Ellyson and City Council:—I hereby tender my resignation as clerk to the City Treasurer, to take effect immediately. E. BROWNE GRYMES.

MESSAGE FILED.

Mr. Bowden, as soon as the above was read, moved that the Mayor's action, as far as it related to the suspension, be sustained, and that the resignation of Mr. Grymes be received.

Mr. Gray read the section referred to by Mr. Ellyson, and said that he saw no provision to take action on the Mayor's message.

Mr. Turpin moved as a substitute that the Mayor's message be filed, that no opinion be expressed. The substitute was adopted. Mr. Bowden withdrawing his motion.

Mr. Turpin moved that Mr. Grymes' resignation be presented to the next joint meeting of the Council.

Mr. Taylor moved that the resignation be received.

Mr. Grymes offered a resolution providing that the Board of Aldermen accept the resignation, and that action be concurrent by the Common Council.

Mr. Turpin's motion was carried.

Mr. Gunn from the Committee on Light, offered an ordinance that the salary of the Superintendant of the Gas Works be made \$2,500 per annum. It is now \$2,500.

Alderman Mitchell, from the Committee on Fire Department, returned the petition from R. H. Boshier's sons asking that they be exempted from putting on an escape. The committee's report states that the law in reference to fire escapes is a statute, and that the Council have no jurisdiction.

An ordinance was also reported by Alderman Miller in reference to permits for frame buildings. The provisions of the ordinance have been reported in *The Times* and concern chiefly builders and contractors, and the ordinance is one of the most complicated ones ever read in the Council. It provides that the permit be approved by the chairman of the Fire Department, then by the committee, and this action shall not be taken until a majority of the members of the Council representing the ward in which the building is to be built approves of the erection of the building. If this cannot be done the Council can then be appealed to.

Mr. Dickerson offered as a substitute that frame building permits be granted by the chairman of the Committee on Fire Department, his action having been first approved by a majority of the committee that after this permit, if a property holder is in a building, comes to the police, the work on the building shall be stopped and the permit is granted.

Mr. Hargrove offered an amendment that instead of one property holder that three-fourths of the property holders be required to stop work on the building.

Mr. Bowden said that simplicity was a chief desideratum, and he heartily approved of the ordinance offered by Mr. Dickerson.

The amendment of Mr. Hargrove was lost. The substitute was adopted. Messrs. Crenshaw, Gray and Hargrove voting in the negative. This action settles the question in reference to frame building permits and will be appreciated by all the builders of Richmond.

FROM THE COUNCIL.

The resolution providing for the printing of the Mayor's message and accompanying documents was concurred in.

The resolution opening Pickett street from Venable street north to the corporate line was re-referred to the Street Committee to ascertain the cost of the work.

A resolution that the Auditor issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000 for expenses of new City Hall fund. On motion of Mr. Bowden.

Resolution that joint meeting of the Council be held March 23d to elect a fire commissioner and members of the school board. Concurred in.

Resolution that permission be granted to the Women's Christian Association to erect frame building at corner of Main and Fifth streets. Concurred in.

Regarding the resolution that \$12,000 be appropriated to establish a public school in Fulton, Mr. Hargrove moved it be referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Carter said that the building was greatly needed, and that inasmuch as the resolution had been passed by the Common Council he deemed it expedient to vote the appropriation.

Mr. Bowden said he had well known that the school facilities in Fulton were really inadequate for the demands made upon them.

Mr. Cary said that he hoped the matter would be referred to the Finance Committee, for, besides the Fulton schools, other buildings for such purposes had to be erected, and as there was not currency sufficient bonds would have to be issued for them all at once.

A vote was taken and Mr. Hargrove's motion was lost by one vote.

Mr. Bowden, as soon as the vote was announced, also advocated the passing of the resolution.

Mr. Capers offered an amendment that \$12,000 in 4 per cent. bonds be issued to pay for the school. The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Hargrove said he did not vote to be understood as being opposed to the school, but that he thought the proper course would be to have the appropriation considered by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Cary offered as a substitute that the building would be made, for he well knew that the school facilities in Fulton were really inadequate for the demands made upon them.

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PRESERVED AND REFERRED.

Mr. Capers presented petitions from residents of Cherry and Reservoir streets asking that those streets be improved at the expense of tax payers.

He also offered a resolution that the City Attorney be requested to report an ordinance which will prevent such driving and riding on the streets of the city as endangers the health of pedestrians. The resolution was referred.

The resolution making appropriations for schools was taken from the table, on motion of Mr. Cary, and referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hargrove offered a resolution that the Committees on Schools and Finance adopt a site for the new Central School. Adopted.

Mr. Taylor offered a resolution, which was in red ribbon, as follows:

"An ordinance for the prevention and punishment of the annoying practices known as 'barking' and 'catching' in the streets of Richmond."

Section 1. It is enacted and ordained by the Council that any person who shall be found in any of the streets or highways, or upon any sidewalk or footway, thereby causing or obstructing the passage of persons about any of the said streets or highways, or upon any of the said streets or highways, or upon any of the said sidewalks or footways, for the purpose of catching or compelling them to buy any article or thing from any store or stand where goods

are sold at retail, shall be subjected to a fine of ten dollars for each and every offense, said fine to be recovered as other fines and penalties are recovered.

Section 2. And be it further enacted and ordained that any person entering any store where goods are sold at retail for the purpose of enticing or in any manner interfering with the sale of any article or persons within the store, or staying longer than there is for the purpose of inducing shall be subject to a fine of \$10 for each and every offense, said fine to be recovered as other fines and penalties are recovered.

Mr. Turpin offered an ordinance that gas be reduced to \$1.25 per thousand cubic feet.

Mr. Taylor said that he thought the move would be more popular if the price were reduced still lower, so he moved that the price be reduced to \$1 per thousand.

The vote on amendment was as follows, it being adopted:

Agnes—Messrs. Balsam, Belvin, Bowden, Capers, Carter, Gray, Jeter, Mitchell, and Taylor.

Negatives—Messrs. Cary, Crenshaw, Gunn, Hargrove, Hughes, Turpin, and Dickerson.

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